

## VISITING GRYTVIKEN AND KING EDWARD POINT (KEP)

Information for all visitors intending to come ashore at Grytviken and King Edward Point. This is to be read and understood in addition to the **INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO SOUTH GEORGIA 2015/16** document before visiting.

**Biosecurity:** The Biosecurity measures explained in the **BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS 2015** document are to be observed as much here as the rest of the island. In particular we are trying to contain the spread of invasive plants at Grytviken and KEP.

At Grytviken, procumbent pearlwort has spread within the whaling station area. We have a control programme underway but meanwhile please do not put bags etc down on the ground, except on concrete, raised surfaces, indoors etc. and be particularly diligent about scrubbing footwear on your return to the ship. This will reduce the chance of transporting seeds. The landing beaches by the sealing ships in front of the Museum and the Cemetery, and the Cemetery area itself are OK.

See below for extra measures that apply at KEP.

**Grytviken Whaling Station** is open to visitors, but please note:

- You may enter the Church and Museum buildings, and visit the Cemetery.
- Do not enter any other buildings; they are in use as workshops, stores and accommodation.
- Stay at ground level and do not climb on any structures
- Do not board the wrecked historic sealing ships that have been buried at the water's edge. They have not been made safe and still contain asbestos.

**Grytviken Jetties:** The Harpon jetty (in front of the Museum) is dangerous and not to be used. Inflatable launches can drop visitors at the landing sites on beaches in front of the cemetery and the Museum. The Tijuca jetty in the centre of the station may be used with care by larger launches and tenders.

**Cemetery:** Please limit numbers to 100 inside the cemetery and remember that others are buried there, not just the two famous explorers. Larger groups can gather outside the fence for ceremonies etc.

**Museum:** The Museum at Grytviken has displays depicting the whaling history, natural history and exploration of South Georgia. It will be opened for visiting ships. Other visitors can arrange a time for it to be opened either directly or via the Govt. Officer. The Museum has a **Gift Shop** that sells a wide range of souvenirs including T-shirts, postcards, hats, jewellery and books. Maximum 100 people at a time inside.

**Church:** Maximum 100 people at a time, or 206 for an organised service, in which case two fire marshals should be appointed and familiarise themselves with the fire exits and extinguishers. Maximum 20 people upstairs on the balcony.

**Post Office:** The Post Office can be opened at KEP or Grytviken for sales of postcards, stamps, first day covers. It will generally be opened behind the Museum at Grytviken for cruise ships. Contact the Deputy Postmaster via the Govt. Officer to arrange a time. It is sometimes possible to arrange for the Post Office to be brought on board larger ships.

**Currency:** The Museum Gift Shop and Post Office both accept:  
US Dollars cash / travellers' cheques  
Sterling cash / cheques (drawn on UK Bank)  
Euros cash  
Credit and Debit Cards

**Visiting King Edward Point:** Please consult the Govt. Officer before visiting King Edward Point, which is a working scientific station. On some occasions, particularly if there is a ship working cargo, it is not safe or convenient for you to visit and you will be advised of a better time.

When you do visit, please **do not enter any buildings** unless specifically invited and accompanied by a resident. All the buildings are used for accommodation, offices, workshops and stores.

**Hope Point (Shackleton's Memorial Cross):** The cross on Hope Point, erected by Shackleton's men shortly after he died, can be accessed by walking through KEP.

**Introduced Plant Species:** We are currently dealing with an outbreak of an introduced plant, wavy bittercress, which has spread rapidly across King Edward Point and is also present in an area to the SE of the cemetery (please see map). To help us stop it spreading to other parts of the island:

Stick to the tracks when visiting KEP.

Stay out of the bittercress area to the SE of the cemetery which is clearly marked with orange painted wooden posts.

Make sure you wash all footwear, tripods etc. thoroughly when returning to your vessel to ensure that seeds do not get transported off KEP.

**Unexploded Ordnance:** All known ordnance has been removed. However, if walking further afield, you may find unexploded ordnance left from the 1982 war and subsequent military training exercises. If you find anything that may be unexploded ordnance:

**DO NOT TOUCH IT**

Make a note of its position and description, including any markings. A GPS position would be very helpful in locating it. Mark its position with a pile of stones, a stick, etc. without touching the item itself.

Inform the Govt. Officer, who will arrange for its proper and safe disposal by the military authorities in the Falklands.

**Souvenirs:** Do not take any souvenirs such as bones, teeth, plants, harpoon heads etc. without consulting the Govt. Officer, who can advise on what can legally be taken, and will organise export documentation etc.

**Wildlife:** Do not harass wildlife. Keep a respectful distance from penguins, seals and birds. If you make them change their behaviour, you are too close. Moving slowly and staying in small groups will disturb them less and let you get better photographs. Do not feed birds or animals. See the Wildlife Protection Guidelines on page 9 for more details.

**Toilets / WC:** There are limited lavatory facilities at Grytviken Museum. There are no public conveniences at King Edward Point. Go before you come ashore.

Enjoy your visit.